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Governor Deval Patrick

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GOVERNOR PATRICK MEETS WITH COLOMBIAN TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURS



Governor Patrick and Secretary Bialecki met with Colombia-based entrepreneurs

visiting Massachusetts. From left to right: Bernardo Franco of Yimup.com, Santiago Lozano of Onlulo.com, Governor Patrick, Felipe Chávez of Onlulo.com, Germán Franco of Yimup.com and Secretary Bialecki. (Photo credit: Hawley Shea / Governor's Office)

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BOSTON – Wednesday, February 27, 2013 – Governor Deval Patrick today met with Colombia-based entrepreneurs visiting Massachusetts one week after the Massachusetts-Colombia Innovation Partnership Mission, to continue the discussion about the Commonwealth's partnership with Colombia and help create collaboration that will spur job creation in Massachusetts.

"Massachusetts is a global leader in the technology sector," said Governor Patrick. "By partnering with growing innovation markets like Colombia, we strengthen our economic impact. It's terrific to see start-up companies like these come visit and experience all the Commonwealth can offer to young innovators."

Several of the entrepreneurs visiting Massachusetts attended a roundtable event in Bogota, Colombia, on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 with Governor Patrick, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Gregory Bialecki and leaders from several Massachusetts innovation organizations, including Pamela Goldberg, CEO, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative; Susan Windham-Bannister, Ph.D., President & CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center; Alicia Barton, CEO, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center; and John Harthorne, Founder and CEO of MassChallenge.

There are four entrepreneurs visiting Massachusetts to explore partnerships for two start-up ventures, Onlulo.com, a software solution for businesses focused on sales monitoring and contact management, and Yimup.com, a digital tool to help independent musicians promote their work and manage concerts.

As part of the [Massachusetts-Colombia Innovation Partnership Mission](#), Governor Patrick and President of the Republic of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to formalize collaboration between Massachusetts and Colombia in the areas of science, technology and innovation, including in the life sciences, digital technology and clean energy industries. Last year, the United States signed a free trade agreement with Colombia, opening up an estimated \$1.1 billion market for U.S. exports.

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